



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 23 2006

Magalie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Reference:

- Docket Nos. CP98-150-006 et al. and CP98-151-003 et al. for the Millennium Pipeline Project;
- Docket No. CP05-19-000 for the Line A-5 Replacement Project;
- Docket No. CP06-5-000 for the Empire Connector Project;
- Docket No. CP06-76-000 for the Algonquin Ramapo Replacement Project; and
- Docket No. CP02-31-002 for the Iroquois Market Access Project

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the final supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the Northeast (NE)-07 Project (CEQ # 20060424), a joint venture natural gas pipeline to be located in several New York State counties; Morris County, New Jersey; and Fairfield and New Haven Counties, Connecticut. This review was conducted in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7609, PL 91-604 12(a), 84 Stat.1709), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Background:

The final SEIS is a supplement to a final environmental impact statement that was prepared in 2001 for a project then referred to as the Millennium Pipeline Project. Although the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued an order approving the Millennium Pipeline Project in 2002, the New York State Department of State denied coastal zone consistency concurrence for the project on May 9, 2002, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers denied a Department of the Army Permit without prejudice on January 20, 2004. The NE-07 Project is a modification of and an alternative to the Millennium Pipeline Project. It includes the construction and operation of certain facilities approved for the Millennium Pipeline Project, with some additions and modifications, as well as facilities proposed by four other companies as summarized below:

- Millennium would construct, acquire, and operate certain amendment facilities in Docket Nos. CP98-150-006, CP98-150-007, and CP98-150-008 for the Millennium Pipeline Project – Phase I, or the Phase I Project.

- Columbia has proposed in Docket Nos. CP98-151-003 and CP98-151-004 to abandon, in place or by conveyance to Millennium, certain facilities related to the Millennium amendment applications.
- Columbia has proposed the Line A-5 Replacement Project in Docket No. CP05-19-000.
- Empire State Pipeline and Empire Pipeline, Inc. propose in Docket No. CP06-5-000 to construct the Empire Connector Project.
- Algonquin Gas Transmission System, LLC proposes in Docket No. CP06-76-000 to construct the Ramapo Expansion Project.
- Iroquois Gas Transmission System, LP proposes in Docket No. CP02-31-002 to amend the certificate it received from the Commission on October 31, 2002, in Docket No. CP02-31-000 to modify the approved facilities and to construct and operate certain additional facilities for the Market Access Project. An environmental assessment [EA] was issued for Iroquois' Brookfield Expansion Project in the original proceeding in 2002. The EA and the record of the decision in that proceeding were incorporated by reference into this DSEIS.

Comments:

The draft SEIS for this project was released in June of 2006. EPA reviewed the document and rated the draft SEIS LO indicating a lack of objections. Based on our review of the final SEIS, EPA maintains its lack of objections and does not believe that implementation of the Northeast (NE)-07 Project will cause significant adverse impacts to environmental and cultural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely yours,



John Filippelli, Chief
Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch